

The Power of God's Word (Part 1) - Acts 17:1-5 – August 24th, 2008

- Paul and Silas leave Philippi and travel through Amphipolis and Appollonia to Thessalonica on this Paul's second missionary journey.
- What a journey it has been. There have been many miracles along the way, but it's been riddled with many trials as well.
- Be that as it may, the Gospel is being preached, the Word is being spread, people are being saved, and churches are being planted.

- We round a corner, upon their arrival in Thessalonica, as we see what happens to Paul and Silas next and there's never a dull moment.
- Of course the trials and tribulations don't stop, nor does the opposition and persecution because they don't stop preaching the Word.
- It seems to me that this account in this chapter can serve as a reminder of how powerful God's Word is to overcome opposition.

- I've titled part 1 of this 2 part study; "The Power of God's Word," because in it we can perhaps rediscover the importance of the Bible.
- Now some of you may be thinking that knowing of the power or importance of God's Word is a firm grasp of the obvious, and that's ok.
- I hope for all of us to, at the conclusion of this two part study, rediscover a love for God's Holy Word, like we never have before!

1. God's Word is reasonable (Verses 1-2)

1 When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days **he reasoned with them from the Scriptures.**

v1 We're told that, once they arrive in Thessalonica, they find a Jewish synagogue to start preaching and teaching the Word.

v2 As was Paul's custom, he enters the synagogue, and for three weeks, "reasons with them from the Scriptures."

- For Paul to do this over a period of three weeks, shows unspeakable patience for the sake of being able to reason with them.

"The apostle's custom was to reason from the Scriptures, and surely there is no weapon so powerful as that which is taken from the armory of inspiration."

Charles Spurgeon

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. KJV

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. NASU

2. God's Word is persuasive (Verses 3-4)

3 **explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead.** "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. 4 **Some of the Jews were persuaded** and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

v3 Luke goes onto record how he reasoned from the Scriptures by explaining and proving that the Jesus he's proclaiming is the Christ.

v4 Were told that some Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas along with a large number of Greeks and prominent women.

Question: How did Paul persuade and prove to them, from the scriptures, that Jesus was the Christ who had suffered and rose again.

Answer: First, I believe he was gentle, and patient with them, which is probably one reason why he took three weeks to do it.

Proverbs 25:15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone. NIV

Question: How did Paul persuade and prove to them, from the scriptures, that Jesus was the Christ who had suffered and rose again.

Answer: I believe that there's a second and even more important reason that he persuaded them from the scriptures over three weeks.

- He was able to prove to them, from the scriptures, that Jesus fulfilled all of over 300 prophecies foretelling His first coming.

- One has calculated the probability of just eight of these, over 300, prophecies being fulfilled by one man as 1:10 followed by 28 zero's.

SUBJECT	OT Prophecy	NT Fulfillment
As the Son of God	Ps 2:7	Lu 1:32,35
As the seed of the woman	Ge 3:15	Ga 4:4
As the seed of Abraham	Ge 17:7 22:18	Ga 3:16
As the seed of Isaac	Ge 21:12	Heb 11:17-19
As the seed of David	Ps 132:11 Jer 23:5	Ac 13:23 Ro 1:3
His coming at a set time	Ge 49:10 Da 9:24,25	Lu 2:1
His being born of a virgin	Isa 7:14	Mt 1:22,23 Lu 2:7
His being called Immanuel	Isa 7:14	Mt 1:22,23
His being born in Bethlehem of Judea	Mic 5:2	Mt 2:1 Lu 2:4-6
Great persons coming to adore him	Ps 72:10	Mt 2:11
The slaying of the children of Bethlehem	Jer 31:15	Mt 2:16-18
His being called out of Egypt	Ho 11:1	Mt 2:15
His being preceded by John the Baptist	Isa 40:3 Mal 3:1	Mt 3:1,3 Lu 1:17
His being anointed with the Spirit	Ps 45:7 Isa 11:2 61:1	Mt 3:16 Joh 3:34 Ac 10:38

His being a Prophet like to Moses	De 18:15-18	Ac 3:20-22
His being a Priest after the order of Melchizedek	Ps 110:4	Heb 5:5,6
His entering on his public ministry	Isa 61:1,2	Lu 4:16-21,43
His ministry commencing in Galilee	Isa 9:1,2	Mt 4:12-16,23
His entering publicly into Jerusalem	Zec 9:9	Mt 21:1-5
His coming into the temple	Hag 2:7,9 Mal 3:1	Mt 21:12 Lu 2:27-32 Joh 2:13-16
His poverty	Isa 53:2	Mr 6:3 Lu 9:58
His meekness and want of ostentatious	Isa 42:2	Mt 12:15,16,19
His tenderness and compassion	Isa 40:11 42:3	Mt 12:15,20 Heb 4:15
His being without guile	Isa 53:9	1Pe 2:22
His zeal	Ps 69:9	Joh 2:17
His preaching by parables	Ps 78:2	Mt 13:34,35
His working miracles	Isa 35:5,6	Mt 11:4-6 Joh 11:47
His bearing reproach	Ps 22:6 69:7,9,20	Ro 15:3
His being rejected by his brethren	Ps 69:8 Isa 63:3	Joh 1:11 7:3
His being a stone of stumbling to the Jews	Isa 8:14	Ro 9:32 1Pe 2:8
His being hated by the Jews	Ps 69:4 Isa 49:7	Joh 15:24,25
His being rejected by the Jewish rulers	Ps 118:22	Mt 21:42 Joh 7:48
That the Jews and Gentiles should combine against Him	Ps 2:1,2	Lu 23:12 Ac 4:27
His being betrayed by a friend	Ps 41:9 55:12-14	Joh 13:18,21
His disciples forsaking him	Zec 13:7	Mt 26:31,56
His being sold for thirty pieces silver	Zec 11:12	Mt 26:15
His price being given for the potter's field	Zec 11:13	Mt 27:7
The intensity of his sufferings	Ps 22:14,15	Lu 22:42,44
His sufferings being for others	Isa 53:4-6,12 Da 9:26	Mt 20:28
His patience and silence under suffering	Isa 53:7	Mt 26:63 27:12-14
His being smitten on the cheek	Mic 5:1	Mt 27:30
His visage being marred	Isa 52:14 53:3	Joh 19:5
His being spit on and scourged	Isa 50:6	Mr 14:65 Joh 19:1
His hands and feet being nailed to the cross	Ps 22:16	Joh 19:18 20:25
His being forsaken by God	Ps 22:1	Mt 27:46
His being mocked	Ps 22:7,8	Mt 27:39-44
Gall and vinegar being given him to drink	Ps 69:21	Mt 27:34
His garments being parted, and lots cast for his vesture	Ps 22:18	Mt 27:35
His being numbered with the transgressors	Isa 53:12	Mr 15:28
His intercession for His murderers	Isa 53:12	Lu 23:34
His Death	Isa 53:12	Mt 27:50
That a bone of him should not be broken	Ex 12:46 Ps 34:20	Joh 19:33,36
His being pierced	Zec 12:10	Joh 19:34,37
His being buried with the rich	Isa 53:9	Mt 27:57-60
His flesh not seeing corruption	Ps 16:10	Ac 2:31
His resurrection	Ps 16:10 Isa 26:19	Lu 24:6,31,34
His ascension	Ps 68:18	Lu 24:51 Ac 1:9
His sitting on the right hand of God	Ps 110:1	Heb 1:3
His exercising the priestly office in heaven	Zec 6:13	Ro 8:34
His being the chief corner-stone of the Church	Isa 28:16	1Pe 2:6,7
His being King in Zion	Ps 2:6	Lu 1:32 Joh 18:33-37
The conversion of the Gentiles to him	Isa 11:10 42:1	Mt 1:17,21 Joh 10:16 Ac 10:45,47
His righteous government	Ps 45:6,7	Joh 5:30 Re 19:11
His universal dominion	Ps 72:8 Da 7:14	Php 2:9,11
The perpetuity of his kingdom	Isa 9:7 Da 7:14	Lu 1:32,33

- The Apostle Peter, who was an eye witness as a disciple, wrote about this; "more sure word of prophecy," in his second epistle.

2 Peter 1:16-21 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. KJV

3. God's Word may start a riot (Verse 5)

5 But **the Jews were jealous**; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, **formed a mob and started a riot in the city.** They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.

v5 The Jews were so jealous that they round up people with bad character, form a mob and start a riot in the city.

- After doing this they rush to a house owned by a believer named Jason searching for Paul and Silas in order to bring them into the riot.

Matthew 10:34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. NIV